

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. An entity for supporting a collaborative shared services business system, the entity
2 comprising:
3 a for-profit corporation having one or more managers to manage the entity,
4 a means for performing one or more collaborative services as needed for the
5 customers/shareholders; and
6 a means for distributing at least part of its earnings to each of its
7 customers/shareholders;
8 wherein the entity is organized to allow the sale of shares of the entity to one or more
9 customers/shareholders; accept the transfer of assets from the customers/shareholders;
10 receive special tax treatment; and wherein the entity charges a fee for the
11 collaborative shared services it provides to each customer/shareholder on a per
12 transaction basis or based on the services provided during a specified period of time.

1 2. The entity according to claim 1, further comprising a means for outsourcing all or a
2 portion of the entity's collaborative shared services to an unrelated supplier.

1 3. The entity according to claim 1, wherein the means for distributing earnings is
2 through dividends to the shareholders and the special tax treatment allows for the
3 entity to take a tax deduction for the dividends allocated to the shareholders.

1 4. The entity according to claim 1, wherein the entity does not receive special tax
2 treatment but customers/shareholders receive tax deductible benefits.

- 1 5. The entity according to claim 1, further comprising at least one sub-entity under the
2 direction of the entity, said sub-entity specializing in a particular collaborative shared
3 service.
- 1 6. The entity according to claim 1, further comprising one or more remote entities, said
2 remote entities being geographically separate from each other.
- 1 7. The entity according to claim 6, wherein each of the remote entities has a regional
2 manager for managing each of the remote entities.
- 1 8. The entity according to claim 6, wherein ownership of the customers/shareholders
2 belonging to one remote entity is not necessarily the same as the ownership of the
3 customers/shareholders belonging to another remote entity.
- 1 9. A collaborative shared services business system comprising:
2 a. an entity;
3 b. at least one customer/shareholder;
4 c. an assets transfer from a given customer/shareholder to the entity;
5 d. a management scheme for the entity to manage the assets and provide one or
6 more needed collaborative shared services to the customer/shareholder;
7 wherein the entity is a for-profit corporation and charges a fee for the collaborative
8 shared services it provides to each customer/shareholder on a per transaction basis or
9 based on the services provided during a specified period of time.

1 10. The collaborative shared services business system according to claim 9, further
2 comprising an outsourcing mechanism to outsource all or a portion of the entity's
3 collaborative shared services to an unrelated supplier.

1 11. The collaborative shared services business system according to claim 9, further
2 comprising one or more remote entities, said remote entities being geographically
3 separate from each other.

1 12. The collaborative shared services business system according to claim 9, further
2 comprising at least one sub-entity under the direction of the entity, said sub-entity
3 specializing in a particular collaborative shared service.

1 13. The collaborative shared services business system according to claim 9, wherein the
2 entity distributes at least some of its profits to each customer/shareholder through
3 dividends or in a form of deductible benefits.

1 14. The collaborative shared services business system according to claim 13, wherein the
2 entity is entitled to special tax treatment that allows for the entity to take a tax
3 deduction for the dividends allocated to the shareholders.

1 15. The collaborative shared services business system according to claim 13, wherein the
2 deductible benefits comprise volume discounts, rebates and warrants.

- 1 16. A method for operating a collaborative shared services business system comprising:
- 2 a. establishing an entity, said entity being a for-profit corporation, and having
- 3 one or more managers to manage the entity;
- 4 b. purchasing a portion of the entity through a purchase of shares of stock by one
- 5 or more customers/shareholders;
- 6 c. transferring assets from each customer/shareholder to the entity;
- 7 d. providing needed collaborative shared services to each customer/shareholder;
- 8 e. distributing at least a portion of its profits to its shareholders, which include
- 9 the customers/shareholders;
- 10 f. charging a fee for the collaborative shared services the entity provides to each
- 11 customer/shareholder on a per transaction basis or based on the services
- 12 provided during a specified period of time;
- 13 wherein the entity receive special tax treatment.

- 1 17. The method according to claim 16, further comprising outsourcing all or a portion of
- 2 the entity's collaborative shared services to an unrelated supplier.

- 1 18. The method according to claim 16, wherein the at least a portion of the profits are
- 2 allocated by way of dividends to the shareholders and the special tax treatment allows
- 3 for the entity to take a tax deduction for the dividends allocated to the shareholders.

1 19. The method according to claim 16, wherein the entity does not receive special tax
2 treatment and the distributing at least a portion of its profits to its shareholders is
3 provided through volume discounts, rebates and warrants to the
4 customers/shareholders.

5 20. The method according to claim 16, further comprising delegating all or a portion of
6 the collaborative shared services to at least one sub-entity under the direction of the
7 entity, said sub-entity specializing in a particular service.

1 21. The method according to claim 16, further comprising delegating all or a portion of
2 the collaborative shared services to one or more remote entities, said remote entities
3 being geographically separate from the entity.

1 22. The method according to claim 21, further comprising providing a separate regional
2 manager to each remote entity for the management of each remote entity.

1 23. The method according to claim 21, further comprising distributing the purchase of
2 shares of stock by the customers/shareholders to one or more specific remote entities,
3 such that ownership of a given remote entity is not necessarily the same as the
4 ownership of the customers/shareholders of another remote entity.